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|---|----------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| <b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b><br>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) | Application Number   | 09/854,844             |              |
|   | Filing Date          | May 14, 2001           |              |
|   | First Named Inventor | Hu, Yi                 |              |
|   | Group Art Unit       | 1652                   |              |
|   | Examiner Name        | Ramirez, Delia M.      |              |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission  | 16                   | Attorney Docket Number | LEX-0176-USA |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 |   |  |

## SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

|                         |                                     |       |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Firm or Individual name | Lexicon Genetics Incorporated       |       |
|                         | Lance K. Ishimoto Reg. No. 41.866   |       |
| Signature               | Lance K. Ishimoto by David W. Hsueh | 24231 |
| Date                    | March 1, 2002                       |       |

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this date: March 1, 2002 |                |      |               |
| Typed or printed name  | Michelle Klein |      |               |
| Signature  |                | Date | March 1, 2002 |

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Hu *et al.* Group Art Unit: 1652  
Application No.: 09/854,844 Examiner: D. Ramirez  
Filed: 05/14/2001 Atty. Docket No.: LEX-0176-USA  
Title: Novel Human Protease and Polynucleotides  
Encoding the Same



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**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**  
**DATED DECEMBER 3, 2001**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The Applicants acknowledge the receipt of the Office Action ("the Action") mailed on December 3, 2001 (Paper No. 7), which has been carefully reviewed and studied. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the following amendments. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the following amendments and remarks. In order to facilitate the Examiner's evaluation of the application, Applicants have attempted to address the objections and rejections in Paper No. 7 in the same order in which they were originally raised.

The response is due on March 3, 2002, which falls on a Sunday. The period for response is therefore extended until Monday, March 4, 2002 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.7. The response is thus timely filed. Applicants believe no fees are due in connection with this response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0892.

**AMENDMENT**

**In the claims:**

Please amend the claims so that the text of the amended claim reads as follows:

- a<sup>1</sup>
1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising at least 24 contiguous bases of nucleotide sequence from SEQ ID NO:1.